(c) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Certain aspects of problems related to the induction of MIG-29 and to its utilization/maintenance in the initial period of usage of the aircraft, were raised in the report of C&AG of India for the year ended 31.3.1992 (No. 9 of 1993). These were examined by the 85th Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of 10th Lok Sabha.

The aircraft has met the operational requirements of IAF. During the period 1987 to 1990, a number of engines were prematurely withdrawn and sent for repairs to the manufacturer. These withdrawals were mainly due to a minor technical defect, and damage due to foreign objects. These problems have since been overcome by instituting remedial measures and modifications.

Construction of War Memorials

1115. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the contents of the news-item captioned "Memorials for Kargil heroes remain a promise" as appeared in the 'Times of India' dated the 7th June, 2000;

(b) whether Government had asked all the States to take initiative to construct was memorials;

(c) whether the State Government Andhra Pradesh has not even bothered to give a second thought to its promise;

(d) if so, what is the response from other State Governments; and

(e) what steps are being taken by Government to ensure construction of war memorials?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Raksha Mantri had written a letter on 21-7-1997 to all Chief Ministers/Governors/Lt. Governors/Administrators of Union Territories for construction of suitable was memorials in State capitals.

(c) Government have no information about any promise made by the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

(d) and (e) Only the State Governments of Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh have responded to the suggestion as above. The State Governments have to take the initiative for constructing war memorials in their States.

Faulty construction of Naval dry dock in Mumbai

1116. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Naval dry dock under construction in Mumbai collapsed in June, 2000; and

(b) if so, the action taken against those responsible for faulty construction and use of substandard material?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) A portion of Northern side wall of the dry dock facility under construction at Mumbai collapsed on 7th June, 2000 while de-watering was in progress. The Naval Headquarters have constituted a Board of Inquiry (BOI) headed by a serving Rear Admiral with the following terms of Reference:—

(a) Inquire into the cause leading to the collapse of the North Fitting Out Berth.

(b) Assess and examine deficiencies, if any, in the soundness of design of the structure, adequacy of consultancy services, supervision and quality control.

(c) Examine inadequacies in the methodology, construction process, equipment and materials utilised by the contractor.

(d) Assess damage to property and loss of life.

(e) Assess delay caused on account of the collapse of the North Fitting Out Berth.

(f) Provide recommendations on the following aspects:—

(i) Re-commencement of the work.

(ii) Preservation of equipment procured till completion of the civil works and other relevant aspects.